

of nature and man equally threatened by the uncontrolled working of technology. Physical or chemical crucial decisions need to be made concerning the consumption of fossil fuels and the production of nuclear energy, the accumulation of human waste, excessive air and water pollution, the effect of noise and the human population crisis. We have mishandled our technologic capabilities. How to strike the right balance may be the greatest challenge of human wisdom.

In summary, as we have before, we recommend strongly this one volume encyclopedic textbook of medicine.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

TRAUMA TO THE LIVER—2nd Edition (Volume III in the Series **MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CLINICAL SURGERY**)—J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, Consulting Editor—Gordon F. Madding, M.D. M.S. (Surgery), F.A.C.S., Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California San Francisco, Associate in Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Paul A. Kennedy, M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1971. 186 pages, \$9.50.

This concise coverage of a difficult clinical problem is eminently readable. Progressing from an overview of the historical developments in management of hepatic trauma the book goes on to detailed discussions of the most vital areas in the management of liver injuries today.

Excellent drawings, corrosion cast photographs and a color plate illustrate the anatomy of the bile ducts and vascular supply to the liver. The chapter on preoperative diagnosis and preparation of the trauma patient is covered adequately and touches briefly on associated injuries and their diagnosis. Controversial areas in hepatic surgery such as extrahepatic biliary drainage, intraperitoneal antibiotics, packing of liver wounds and even wound closure techniques are discussed fairly. The authors give reasons for their preferences. Especially helpful to the surgeon who deals with this type of injury infrequently will be the good coverage of complications attendant on liver injuries and their treatment.

The chapters covering techniques of liver resection by Blaisdell and Lim and repairs of injuries involving the hepatic veins, intrahepatic vena cava and/or the portal vein by McClelland, Canizaro and Shires are extremely well done and add the depth and breadth necessary to make this monograph one of extended value to those surgeons, practicing or training, who deal with a larger volume of liver injuries in metropolitan hospital areas.

In its clear and experienced coverage of the varied aspects of liver trauma the book serves as a valuable guide. To their credit, the authors have kept it well-edited and short so that it may be used as a refresher at the time of most need—when one is faced with urgent operative therapy of the patient with hepatic injury.

RONALD K. TOMPKINS, M.D.

THE MERCK MANUAL OF DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY—12th Edition—David H. Holvey, M.D., Editor; John H. Talbott, M.D., Consulting Editor; Members of the Editorial Board: Elmer Albert, M.D., Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Edward J. Huth, M.D., Chester S. Keefer, M.D., Allen M. Kratz, Pharm.D., Dickinson W. Richards, M.D., W. Henry Sebrell, M.D., and Louis G. Welt, M.D. Merck, Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, Division of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J. (07065), 1972. 1964 Pages, \$8.00, regular binding; \$10.40, deluxe binding, and \$6.40 for students, nurses, residents and interns.

The Twelfth Edition of the Merck Manual has come to hand. This new edition of an unexcelled resource for the medical student, the intern and resident in particular, and any practicing physician who may be in need of a quick and ready reference to diagnosis and treatment bids well to follow in the successful footsteps of its recent predecessors. It is well indexed and almost everything seems to be

covered. The use throughout of the generic names for pharmaceuticals is to be commended, but may prove to be something of a hurdle for those who are unfamiliar with the tongue twisting and brain befuddling appellations which are more the lingo of the organic chemist than of the clinician.

M.S.M. WATTS, M.D.

TRIUMPH OVER PAIN—The Story of Anaesthesia—Robert H. Curtis, M.D. David McKay Company, Inc. 750 Third Ave., New York City (10017), 1972, 134 pages, \$4.95.

"Pain is the enemy of the surgeon, and it was a great day for him and a better one for all of us when pain could be controlled."

The author follows through on this thought with a fascinating little book which highlights the story of anaesthesiology. Dr. Curtis has not only written an authoritative and enlightening book for everyone, but he has made it enjoyable and easy reading, i.e., painless.

Starting from earliest times, man sought relief from pain by using blows on the head, or the strong arms of attendants, or acupuncture, alcohol, and, finally, chemicals. The story is elaborated on the sporadic but consistent search for pain relieving remedies. The author deftly and succinctly gives us the story of the conquest of pain.

Aside from alcohol in the form of wine and the unpredictable use of morphine and hemp, there was a long lapse of several centuries while the science of chemistry was evolving before the precursors of modern anaesthetics were tried. The story of the trials and tribulations of the men involved in the development of ether, chloroform and nitrous oxide is intriguing.

This book is for all—layman, scientist, young and old. It doesn't take long to read, primarily because it is so well written that the reader wants to finish it. Here is a book that you will pass on to family and friends, and physicians will include it in their library for use by patients.

ROBERTA F. FENLON, M.D.

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—An Annual Review—Volume XXVI—Edited by E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Dr. Med. (Hon.), Emeritus Professor and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10003), 1971. 597 pages, \$29.75.

This volume, like the 25 preceding annual volumes, is essentially an annotated bibliography. Each of the 28 chapters deals with a special aspect in the fields of neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry. Such subspecialty areas as otoneurology, epilepsy, pediatric neurology, child psychiatry, alcoholism and peripheral nerve surgery are taken up. Each chapter is brief and is composed of a long series of simple declarative sentences each of which gives the gist of a specific article. These sentences are strung together in groups dealing with the same subject, without further discussion or editorial comment. Often, the bibliographies at the end of chapters are as long as the chapters themselves. The papers cited are primarily from the years 1969 and 1970, and the literature review is comprehensive.

In brief, this volume, like the others in the series, serves as a resource for pursuing the current literature in the field of neurology and psychiatry. It is a useful guide to aid the student, resident or specialist in finding recent pertinent articles. It is recommended for neurology and psychiatry departmental and institutional libraries, and for the specialists in these fields.

ARTHUR K. ASBURY, M.D.